The Sun.

MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 1906.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month.....$0 50
DAILY, Per Year.....6 00
SUNDAY, Per Year.....2 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year.....8 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month.....70
Postage to foreign countries added.

Published by The Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Misdirected Energy.

Because of the boldness of a number of negro "bad men," by whom six white women have been assaulted in Atlanta, Ga., and its suburbs in the last two weeks, a vigilance committee has been formed among the white men, who propose to capture and punish the criminals. The organization has the support of the business community, which will pay its expenses, and its armed guards are now patrolling the negro quarter of the city.

The work to be done by this committee is part of the duty of the municipal, county and State governments. If these governments performed their functions properly there would be no need of volunteer preservers of the peace, jail keepers and public executioners. The acts that have been committed by the negroes are prohibited by statute, and severe punishment is provided for their perpetrators. Were the laws properly enforced there would be no reason or excuse for the banding together of private citizens to protect their lives, their women and their property.

Who is responsible for the failure of the municipal, county and State governments to furnish the protection to which every citizen is entitled? The voters, the men who compose the new vigilance committee, are to blame for whatever weakness and inefficiency their instruments of administration betray. They have power to make the law and its enforcement strong and effective or weak and inert. It lies in their own hands to police their communities properly and thus prevent outrages.

An adequate police force on duty from January 1 to December 31 in every Southern community is what the conditions demand. The vigilance committee that makes this the object of its activities will do more good than any number of clubs that seek only the punishment of individual criminals.

The Rural Guard in Cuba.

Reports from Cuba of the behavior of the Rural Guard in action with the insurgents are conflicting. There are stories of disgraceful routs and of actual desertions to the enemies of the Government. On the other hand, it is announced that the Rural Guard has not suffered a serious reverse, and General RODRIGUEZ has only news of the scattering of the rebels by his mounted men in every encounter.

The Rural Guard must have deteriorated since the days of the American occupation, or its discipline must be impaired by disaffection, if it has failed to render a good account of itself in brushes with the badly mounted guerrilla bands that are alternately skulking in the jungle and raiding undefended towns. Hitherto there has been no conflict that rises to the dignity of an engagement, although PINO GUERRA is said to have assembled a force of 2,000 men and to be well supplied with arms, ammunition and money.

The Rural Guard, it should be understood, is a constabulary and not a war force. In the present emergency it must continue to do police duty as well as serve in the field against the insurgents. The extra duty may be irksome and distasteful to members of the Guard who are secretly of the Liberal faith, especially if they have any personal grievances against the Government. It was only the other day that the detail at the President's palace in Havana refused to go through the ceremony of guard mount, complaining that the rations furnished them were unfit to eat. A shot was fired by one of the mutineers, and another was sabred by the officer in command. The incident was said to have no political significance, but at least it indicated dissatisfaction with the service.

General ADNA R. CHAFFEE, when acting as chief of staff during the American occupation, organized the Rural Guard into companies throughout the island. Each company was to consist of a captain, two lieutenants, eight sergeants, eight corporals and fifty-nine privates; and the pay was to be on a liberal scale for Cuba—$125 a month in United States currency for a captain, $85 for a lieutenant, $50 for a sergeant, $45 for a corporal, $40 for a mounted and $30 for a dismounted private. The organization was to be "similar to that existing in the United States cavalry arm."

The Rural Guard of Cuba had already distinguished itself as a constabulary force in the rural districts. At the close of the war with Spain many restless spirits refused to return to peaceful occupations, and they became a serious menace to the public peace. In the province of Santiago, and later in the other provinces, except Matanzas, a *guardia rural* was organized on the model of the *guardia civil* of the Spanish régime. In Matanzas the municipalities were authorized to organize a mounted police, which was better suited to the needs of the province. Only veterans of the war of independence were accepted as recruits for the Rural Guard. They were uniformed in khaki, and their arms were the rifles they had used as soldiers in the war, chiefly Remingtons and Mausers. They had to furnish their own mounts. Drilled and inspected by American army officers, they developed into an effective police force. General WOOD said of them in his report in 1900:

"They have brought to an end all organized brigandage in the island, a condition which has never before existed. The men of the force are obedient and faithful, and they have performed in very many instances extremely dangerous and hazardous service.

The reorganization in February, 1900, was decided on because of a want of uniformity in the regulations governing the Guard in the different provinces. At that time it consisted of 1,200 officers and men. After the American occupation the strength of the Guard was raised to 3,000, and it was President PALMA'S purpose no longer ago than February of this year to increase the force to 6,000; but the proposal, savoring of militarism, was not well received.

Two Pictures.

For the benefit of students of evolution and sociology, below is figured Mr. BRYAN in his habit as he lived in 1900, standing then by the side of our old axe bearing friend the Hon. ADLAI EWING STEVENSON, and Mr. BRYAN as, laden with world experiences and garlanded with the thought of nations, he comes back to his native shores. For the personal history of the Lincoln of Lincoln, for the history of manners and costume, for CLIO herself, the austere Muse who still cannot resist the glories of the trousered, these records of the breeks of the Peerless possess a breathless interest.

The more Mr. BRYAN changes, the more he is the same. He has stood before and sat down with Kings; he has lunched with Chancellors and dined with Prime Ministers; the bryanstone has kissed him; the "producing classes" of the world have clung in expectation to his fateful knees. Yet he is as radical and as conservative as before.

Gaze here upon these breeches and on these:

The splendor of Olympian JOVE is in this head; in such unmentionables would domesticated APOLLO walk in the house of some great ADMETUS, like MOSES CINCINNATUS WETMORE. The wrinkles are getting more complicated, subtle and full of thought. Age tells, but the scheme, the division, the science of the folds is essentially one.

Look at those legs that have stalked around the world. Look upon these august portraits of a world statesman. The head grown bald in the service of the pee-pul; the hands that tore down the Cross of Gold; the frock coat of the statesman, the sack coat of the Great Uncommon Commoner; the lips grown thin with emotion bitten in and emotion uttered; all this is as it should be, grand, simple, noble. More majestic, however, of deeper meaning, more authoritative, fuller of testimony to a life devoted to the service of the pee-pul, are these popular and peerless "pants," the same in substance in 1900 as in 1906, but growing more thoughtful and heavily lined with the fugacious years.

It may be said of Mr. BRYAN'S trousers as MACAULAY said of CROMWELL'S realistic portrait with all his warts and wrinkles: They have "power and authority and valor in every rugged line."

Shall We See Constitutional Experiments in the East?

The introduction of representative institutions in Russia and the Czar's professed determination to uphold them have apparently made a deep impression on autocratic governments in the Near East and the Far East. The other day we learned by telegram that, thanks to the impression made on the Shah by Western ideas, the inhabitants of Persia for the first time in their age-long history, were to enjoy the privilege of self-rule to a considerable extent. Now come reports that the Ottoman Sultan ABDUL HAMID is inclined to resuscitate the defunct constitution conceded to Turkish reformers some thirty years ago, and that even the Empress Dowager of China, profiting by the information collected by her commission of inquiry in Western countries, has decided to consider the expediency of taking preliminary steps toward the establishment of a representative system in the Celestial Empire. Would such experiments be doomed to failure?

Is there any conciusive reason in the nature of things why a form of government which works pretty well in the dominions of the Hapsburg Kaiser, well enough also in Japan, and which, it is generally taken for granted, is applicable to Russia, would prove a failure in the Ottoman dominions or even in China? We pointed out the other day in the case of Persia that there was nothing insurmountable in the fact that among Moslem peoples a civil law is theoretically null and void if it violate the precepts of the Koran as these have been interpreted by authoritative theologians. In Islam, as in Christendom, there are many ways of effecting a compromise between religion and the civil power. At this moment in the Anglo-Indian empire more than 50,000,000 Mohammedans dwell peacefully under the rule of the Viceroy and Council, who recognize to a limited extent the principles of constitutional government. There is no talk now in India about an irrepressible conflict between the law of Islam and a civil power exercised by unbelievers, nor would there have been any in Egypt lately, unless it had been prompted by Turkish emissaries for political purposes. In Persia a conflict could be averted, as we have said, by making priests eligible to the national assembly, and by organizing the principal theologians into a tribunal corresponding to the United States Supreme Court, and empowered to invalidate a statute as running counter to fundamental principles of Moslem jurisprudence. The same thing may be said of the Ottoman Empire, though there the process of reconciling civil and religious law should be easier, because the Sultan in his capacity of Caliph combines a large measure of spiritual with temporal authority, resembling in this particular the Mikado of Japan.

The most serious difficulty that would be encountered in the attempt to naturalize representative institutions in Eastern countries is not religious, but ethnographical. This difficulty, indeed, can hardly be alleged to have existed in the case of Japan, which, before the Peace of Portsmouth, may be said, with the exception of the few Ainus in the island of Yeso and the denizens of Formosa, to have had a population fairly describable as homogeneous. In Persia, also, although there are a good many Kurds and Armenians, together with some Jews, the bulk of the inhabitants are of one and the same Iranian stock. If, now, we turn to China we find that although originally several racial elements must have entered into the composition of the people, and although a dialect spoken in one province may be unintelligible in another, yet, as regards the laws, the usages, the arts and the ideas which make up the civilization, the population of China proper as distinguished from outlying dependencies is notably homogeneous. From this point of view, indeed, China ranks next to Japan. On the score, therefore, of racial heterogeneity—and we may add of religion—there is no reason why the representative institutions adopted in Japan should not be imitated in China, although, owing to the latter country's more inveterate habits of thought and action, the process of assimilation might be slower.

It was on the rock of heterogeneity in the composition of the Sultan's subjects that the effort of MIDHAT Pasha and other Turkish reformers—an effort begun in 1876—to introduce a representative government was wrecked in 1878, when the so-called parliament was not dissolved but prorogued. Except their religion there is nothing in common between the Arabs, the Kurds and the Albanians on the one hand, and the Osmanli on the other; still more sharply separated from the genuine Ottoman Turk are the Greek and Armenian Christians and the Jews. If the seats in a national assembly convoked at Constantinople were apportioned to population, the Turks would be signally outnumbered; if, on the other hand, measures were taken to assure to them a majority of seats the task of legislation would still be extremely difficult. It should not be insurmountable, however; for, from a numerical point of view, the Turks in the Ottoman Empire occupy a position analogous to that held by the Magyars in the kingdom of Hungary. Now, Hungary has possessed representative institutions since 1867, and although the legislative preponderance hitherto possessed by the Magyars is now threatened by the introduction of universal suffrage, nobody doubts that they will continue in one way or another to dominate the Table of Deputies. So with the Turks in an Ottoman national assembly. Forming a compact and homogeneous body, they would be almost certain to retain political preponderance, a combination between Arab and Kurd Moslems and Greek or Armenian Christians being scarcely conceivable.

Our conclusion is that the Turkish and Chinese reformers are right in maintaining that there is nothing fundamentally impracticable in their desire to plant representative institutions in their respective countries. The attainment of their wishes may not be very long deferred if they shall be able to point to successful experiments in Russia and Persia, as well as in Japan.

The Temperature of Beer.

An unseemly conflict, futile as it is unbecoming, has arisen between two noted beer springs of the land, St. Louis and Milwaukee. A St. Louis visitor to the latter beer mart, of German origin according to his name, more shame to him, declared that Milwaukee beer was not cold enough for him, and explained that in St. Louis the practice was to put a bottle of beer in cracked ice for an hour before drinking it. That, of course, is no indication that it is any cooler when drunk, for in summer no amount of ice, however cracked, can lower St. Louis heat to that of the rest of the United States.

This local squabble between two inland towns nevertheless brings up the whole question of beer and ice from which the country suffers this summer as every summer. In Germany, where beer arose and has flourished since CÆSAR'S time at least, no man dreams of icing it. There it is no luxury, but a necessity. The normal German needs beer, Pilsener or Bairisch, if he can afford it, home brewed if need be, with his frühschoppen, with his mittagessen, with his abendmahl, at the thirsty intervals in between, and above all, in the long, pleasant evenings at the stammtafel, while he plays his games of skat or of dominoes.

He knows how to drink beer as his ancestors for 2,000 years have drunk it. He doesn't want it ice cold, and couldn't drink it if he got it. He wants it cool. The London *Lancet* a few years ago made an exhaustive examination of the German breweries. In its eulogy of the product it put special stress on the care the breweries took and the expense they were put to to see that their beer was not frozen before reaching the consumer. Everywhere in Germany will be found the felsenkeller, the rock cellars, that hold the casks and keep them at a proper temperature without ice, as well as rathskellers and postkellers that try to do the same. No Teuton could put away the daily dozen or more half litres of beer that are meat and drink to him if it were made ice cold.

Here in New York we have many breweries that turn out beer that is nearly, if not fully, as good as that of the Fatherland. The quality is wholly killed and the beer is made deleterious by the despicable practice of serving it frozen. The fine imported beers of Germany are ruined in like manner. Presumably customers call for this, but it shows their lack of beer taste. They would swallow anything equally cold, water or carbolic acid. The well trained German drinks his beer slowly and quietly, and hunts out the places where it is served just cool enough to act properly on the human stomach. The American doesn't know how to drink beer. A new saloon put out the sign recently "Beer from the cask" and attracted custom; it changed it soon for an absurd placard, "Ice cold beer from the cask," which showed that its method or its sign must be a delusion.

There are no two sides to the Western beer controversy. Milwaukee in keeping its beer at a normal temperature of about 50 degrees is in the right according to tradition and according to science. The St. Louis man should go home and cool his head in the pail where he freezes what he calls his beer.

General BANDERA, who was killed by Rural Guards at Punta Brava, near Havana, last week, was not a moral force in Cuba; but a Government which has to deal with sporadic revolts will be glad to be rid of him, for the old guerrilla was a hardy fighter, and among the blacks of the island he was a popular hero.

Senator BRACKETT, who does not hide his candidacy for Governor under a bushel, says that he will welcome help from ODELL or from any one else, and be grateful for it. The Boss would certainly expect him to prove his gratitude by his works.

The appeal of the Bryan reception committee for cash fell flat. Chairman SHERMAN of the Republican Congress committee reports dollar contributions very slow. Chairman GRIM JIGGS is turning his pockets inside out ruefully. Yet there is more money per capita in the country than ever before and the supply of labor is less than the demand. The only conclusion is that the dollars of the people are invested in something more satisfactory than politics.

What is to become of the spelling bee, that quaint source of so much delight and renown in the little red school houses, if the Presidential fiat imposes the reformed spelling on the country?

The bomb thrower is the best friend the reactionaries have in Russia. To kill one bureaucrat he is ready to sacrifice a score of harmless people, and the bureaucrat often escapes. Such a scene of horror as that which resulted from the attempt on the life of Prime Minister STOLYPIN may shake the nerves of an official here and there, but the general effect must be one of disgust and loathing for men capable of such monstrous inhumanities. Revolutions, it is said, never move backward, but the revolution in Russia will not be accelerated by slaughtering the innocents.

Fleet on Way to San Francisco.

From the San Francisco Chronicle.

Surveyor of the Port Woodward has made application to the Secretary of the Treasury, through Collector of the Port Stratton, for permission to increase his force by fifteen assistant weighers, fifteen inspectors and ten laborers. He points out that the commerce of the port is increasing to such an extent that the men he has are unable to handle the customs business, some of them being, through age and physical infirmities, unequal to the task put upon them. He also calls attention to the large fleet of ships bound to this port with heavy cargoes and those that are preparing to sail for here. The list is as follows:

From Antwerp four steamers and thirteen sailing vessels have sailed, and one steamer and eight sailing vessels are on the berth; Bremen, one vessel has sailed; Calcutta, one steamer has sailed; Genoa, two vessels have sailed; Hamburg, eight steamers and eight vessels sailed, and three vessels are on the berth; Hull, two vessels have sailed; Liverpool, two vessels and one on the berth; London, three steamers sailed, five sailing vessels cleared and two on the berth; Newcastle, four vessels sailed, one on berth; Rotterdam, five vessels sailed and one on berth. This makes a total of sixty vessels and seventeen steamers. Thirty-two vessels are on the way from other ports, not including Oriental ports, whence there will be a heavy traffic.

These 109 vessels have on board 213,000 tons of cargo, mostly structural steel for the rebuilding of San Francisco, including 300,000 barrels of cement, the duty on which will be nearly $100,000. There have already arrived here 65,409 barrels of cement, the duty on which is $23,853.88.

Jersey Buttermilk.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* 'Tis evident that Buttermilk Charley neglects intimacy with his many Jersey friends. Were he to put into his glass of fresh buttermilk a dash of good old Monmouth county applejack he would at once ease his sensitive conscience, upraise his sinews for the campaign and "show his sympathy with the farmer, the cow and the churn."

Your understanding that the Hon. Albert Jeremiah is coming out for a non-alcoholic eggnog must be based upon an error. There exists no non-alcoholic eggnog. The real vital, fortifying, life prolonging eggnog is compounded with the same youth continuing nectar—applejack.

MIDDLETOWN, August 25. JERSEYMAN.

Killing the Goose.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* With bricklayers demanding and getting $8.50 a day and lathers $13 to $14, the trade unions are killing the goose which might lay the golden eggs in San Francisco, with a vengeance.

Temporary structures absolutely needed for the transaction of business will afford work at these prices for a limited time only, and then the goose will stop laying and San Francisco will rise from its ashes a city of shacks and remain so until the unions come to their senses, if they ever do, which is to be doubted.

Capital will shun the place as it would one afflicted with a pestilence. R.

NEW YORK, August 25.

Ironquill Among the Ghosts.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* No wonder your bright young man who wrote a column and a half about "Ghost Laying on the Side" thought that "The Washerwoman's Song" in *Modern Miracles* was remarkably well done.

As forty-six other correspondents may have told you already, the song is not new, nor was it written by any psychical researcher. Its author is Eugene F. Ware, known to literature as "Ironquill" and to politics as one of the liveliest Pension Commissioners your Uncle Samuel ever had.

CHICAGO, August 23. DAN B. BRUMMITT.

Questioning the Brooklyn Liberator.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In regard to Birdie's auto ride, would you kindly inform me on the following points: Did the auto belong to the city of New York? If so, by what right did he take it out of New York State? If so, by what right did he take out a New Jersey license for it in his own name?? INQUISITIVE.

BROOKLYN, August 25.

Mr. Jefferson's Mistake.

Jefferson had just written the Declaration of Independence.

"But," cried the bumptious ones, "you didn't spell it according to Brander Matthews."

Owing to this oversight they seriously doubted if the document could be of any benefit to mankind.

Great Advantage.

Knicker—How would you like to be an octopus?

Bocker—Fine; think how many straps you could hang on to in a car.

His Experience.

Knicker—What is the cheapest way to repair an auto?

Bocker—Dynamite it and buy a new one.

COSTA RICA.

It was on his fourth voyage to the Western Hemisphere that Christopher Columbus, while cruising along the coast of what is now Central America, was impressed by the specimens of gold shown to him by the natives of one of the places at which he halted. He named the country Costa Rica—rich coast. That was in 1502. A few years later Spain created the kingdom of Guatemala, which included the whole of Central America and a part of the southern half of Mexico. Costa Rica became a province of this kingdom and so remained until the revolutionary period (1810-1825), during which Spain was deprived of all her mainland possessions in the Western Hemisphere.

The numerous provinces and districts into which the kingdom of Guatemala was originally divided finally became resolved into five political divisions, namely, Guatemala, Honduras, Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. In 1821 they renounced their allegiance to the Spanish crown and declared themselves sovereign States. Soon afterward an attempt was made to unite this quintet in a confederation known as the Republic of Central America. The plan failed, as did five others of the same kind essayed between 1840 and 1898. Costa Rica adopted her Constitution in 1847, after the death of the Dictator, Don Braulio Carillo. It has been several times modified.

The country has an area of about 23,000 square miles. It is therefore about the size of West Virginia, or about one-half the size of Pennsylvania. Its population is given by the census of December 31, 1904, as 331,340. A line drawn through its centre would run almost due northeast and southwest. Writing of its eastern half, a Guatemalan historian of a century ago said: "The surface of the country is very rugged and the climate extremely hot. There are many large rivers and extensive thick forests, which render the whole district excessively unhealthy." This statement of health conditions requires some modification. The lower levels are unquestionably regions of torrid heat. On the mountainsides and plateaus of the central regions the climate is mild and temperate and by no means unhealthful.

The special feature of Costa Rica chorography is the mountain chain which runs almost midway between the Caribbean shore and the Pacific coast. While the general elevation of this range is between 5,000 and 6,000 feet some of its peaks run up to twice that altitude. From this central ridge the land breaks to the coast level on either side in what has been called a series of terraces. These various land elevations are the controlling factor in the industries of the country. On the lower levels the climate is hot and the rainfall heavy. The products of the low country, including all that lies below an elevation of say 2,500 feet, are cacao, vanilla and bananas. On the higher levels are fruits, sugar cane and coffee.

Coffee and bananas are the special industries of Costa Rica. The coffee plant was introduced in 1796 by a Spaniard, Don Francisco Navarro, who brought two specimen plants from Havana and set them in his garden. He distributed seeds among his friends for planting as an object of curiosity. A hundred years later Costa Rica exported more than $4,000,000 worth of high grade coffee. The original plants became trees and lasted until about 1880. Increased competition from other sources of supply and a consequent fall of about one-third in market value have led to a falling off in production during recent years, but the cultivation of the berry is still one of the two chief industries of the people. About 85 per cent. of the crop goes to England.

The banana industry has grown rapidly and promises still greater increase. From a crop of 3,000,000 bunches in 1899 there has been an increase to more than 6,000,000 bunches. Exports of the fruit now exceed $3,000,000 in value yearly. This rapidly developing business is due to the enterprise of an American concern, the United Fruit Company. The soil and climate of the country are well adapted to banana cultivation, and the United States offers a large and ever increasing market. The import value of the bananas consumed in this country durng the calendar year 1905 was only a little below $10,000,000, or more than double that of ten years ago. Costa Rica is one of our principal sources of supply.

The only important ports of the country are Punta Arenas on the Pacific, and Puerto Limon on the Caribbean side. Some day, probably not far distant, these points will be connected by railway. A line owned by an English corporation is in operation between Puerto Limon and San José, the capital city. The rail distance between these points is about 103 miles. From San José westward a line is in operation to Santo Domingo. Fifteen miles west of that point, at Esparta, there is rail connection to Punta Arenas. The completion of the road on the western side of the mountains will necessitate the construction of about twenty-five miles of railway, but it will open a transisthmian line in Costa Rica. Earthquakes and landslides have made the maintenance of these lines somewhat costly, besides proving an interruption to traffic.

Another line, known as the Northern Railway Company, is in operation on the eastern side of the mountains. Its principal business is the transportation of bananas for the United Fruit Company. The Costa Rica Railway, from Puerto Limon to San José, has now been leased by this line and it is believed that the result will be advantageous to both lines. A good wharf has been built at Puerto Limon, which is rapidly becoming a place of importance with modern improvements and an increasing population. When connection is made, the rail route from Puerto Limon to Punta Arenas, via San José, will be about 185 miles in length, or about the same as the Mexican line from Coatzacoalcos to Salina Cruz, known as the Tehuantepec route. In competition for interoceanic traffic Costa Rica is handicapped by her necessity of crossing the mountains at an elevation of 5,000 feet, while the summit of the Tehuantepec route is less than 900 feet above the sea.

The chief importance of Costa Rica's developing railway system is the opening up of new areas to cultivation for export. She already exports hides, hardwoods and rubber. With railways this business can be increased. While her mining prospects are less encouraging than are those of some of her neighbors, her hills are known to contain gold, silver, cinnabar, copper, iron and lead. Gold has been mined for many years, and the possibility of transportation for the necessary machinery should open up other mining opportunities.

The import requirements of Costa Rica are the same as those of all tropical agricultural countries. Our sales to her have increased from a little less than $1,000,000 in 1895 to a few dollars less than $2,000,000 for the calendar year 1905. Her total imports approximate $5,500,000, while her exports show a trade balance in her favor of nearly $2,000,000. Our share of her trade is now showing some increase, due largely to increasing transportation facilities between our Gulf ports and Puerto Limon and to the activities of the United Fruit Company.

With her present development and her promising future it cannot be said that the country is in very bad financial condition, although her debt is undoubtedly a burden on her people. The total debt, funded and floating, is given as in the neighborhood of $15,000,000. Costa Rica has been little disturbed by revolutionary upheavals, and the continuance of peace, coupled with proper administrative economy, should be an almost certain guarantee of her future. Benefit will undoubtedly come to her industries through the opening of the Panama Canal, and as the years go by more capital, foreign and domestic, will be available for investment in Costa Rica.

SUCCESS BY TALK.

Protest Against the Homage Paid to Mere Words.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Is there not something wrong with the judgment of a large number of us when it is possible for a man who has never done any really good work to command our attention as a Presidential possibility? Will the day never come when oratory and juggling with language will have its proper place and not go ahead of really good work, which often only the plodding of years can accomplish? Why is the palm so often handed to the clever orator, while the worker is unheard of? Why do we so often even in our daily experiences allow the clever talker to reap the harvest belonging to the more modest worker?

Any one who has ever come in contact with the men who have been really great has no doubt been surprised at the modesty which has accompanied their greatness. Is it not a pity then that sham and humbug require only brazen assurance, to be paraded before the people and be received by the masses as the real thing and supported as such?

Does it not seem that a country of our size and importance is taking great chances when it is possible for a man never heard of before to receive the nomination for the Presidency on the strength of a speech in convention, as was the case several years ago?

Would it not be far safer if it were an unwritten law that a man must have been in the public service for a number of years and become thoroughly acquainted with a government before he should be eligible for a nomination? Under the present practice does the country not stand in continual danger from the demagogue?

That man who has the power of oratory to make a healthy country think it is sick and that cleverness to formulate the most alluring issues and clothe them in the most catchy phrases, and sufficient ability to juggle with language in order not to be cornered in debate, has the best chance of political advancement. It is against such as these that the masses should be educated if we ever expect to have stability accompanied by a steadily onward progress, and in that way to establish a government so just and great and powerful as to influence for good all the nations of the earth. H. C. TORREY.

MORRISTOWN, N. J., August 25.

The Jerome Reception.

From the Auburn Citizen.

The greeting that is extended to the name of Jerome for Governor has amounted to a reception. Every newspaper in the State worth mentioning has recognized the importance of his appearance in the field, and even those which for political reasons fear his candidacy have admitted the excellencies of his qualities. Republican papers have been quick to trumpet the alarm his candidacy inspires in the disorganized management of their party.

Absolutely Fearless.

From the Springfield Union.

He has ever and always retained the esteem of the people because he is honest, and especially because he is absolutely fearless.

The Man With Convictions.

From the Nashville American.

It is the broad man, the man who has convictions and sticks to them, the man who does not turn his head to every popular clamor that arises and who is game enough to take punishment who wins.

Mr. Jerome is very much this character of man, and in this he is in striking contrast to Hearst.

He Defies the Bosses.

From the Rochester Herald.

Mr. Jerome's defiance of the political bosses will strike a responsive chord in the hearts of the people. The present political troubles of the State and nation are due to the bosses.

The People Accept His Principles.

From the Troy Record.

Whether willing to support him for Governor or not, the voters of the State will accept his declaration of principles as in accord with proper government by the people.

History of the Breviary.

From the American Catholic Quarterly Review.

The history of the Breviary is a curious one. As its name seems to denote, it was a compendium, but when first used it is not easy to decide. Originally it was not an official choral book, but a short prayer book for lay use like the "Breviarium" dedicated by Alcuin to Charlemagne in 804 and the "Breviarium Psalterii" drawn up in 861 by Prudentius, Bishop of Troyes. Two centuries had elapsed before the Breviary in its now common acceptation is mentioned, and that in a treatise known as "Micrologus," ascribed to Bernoldus de Constantiis. The purposes which the Breviary properly so called were intended to serve are well set forth in the simple title "Horarium domesticum, sive choro ecclesiastico deserviens," found on the first page of Sarum folios. From this we gather that its contents were not exclusively for choir purposes, and if the mission priest was to say his office out of choir it became an obvious necessity that he be equipped with a "compact and portable volume which he could sling from his girdle or wear in his wallet as he trotted or trudged about his cure or district." Hence the other name often met with instead of "Breviary": "Portes" or "Portiforium."

Just Cause for Indignation.

From the Chickasha Star.

Citizens of Chickasha are indignant over the proposal to fill up the frog pond between Chickasha and Kansas avenues on Sixth street. The reason is given plainly by a citizen who says: "There's the best place for washing buggies without labor, except to the horse, in the country. Try it some time if you have a muddy buggy. Here's the receipt: Drive slowly through the pond, then turn around and steer through the weedy margin. The first plunge will loosen the mud; on the second the weeds will brush it off and do the polishing.

Drawing the Line.

From the Minden Signal.

We have followed the plough, wielded the hoe, served time on the public roads under the austere overseer, swept the back yard, worked the garden, churned the butter, washed the dishes, nursed the baby and performed other various and sundry disagreeable tasks in our time without a murmur; but when it comes to cleaning streets under three lady bosses—excuse us, please. Three women to boss you! Great Cæsar's ghost! Just the thought of such a catastrophe is enough to give a man the buck ague.

Missouri Wine.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The surplus wine of the 114 counties of Missouri for the year 1905 sold for $4,465,740, according to the 1906 report of State Labor Commissioner William Anderson. A total of 2,977,160 gallons were sent to market.

In these figures is not included any wine manufactured in St. Louis or what was used at home by the farmers, neighbors and the owners of wine cellars, otherwise there would be twice as much to account for.

Intimations of Fall.

From the Washington Star.

When the branch is all bare,
When the blossom is fair
And the meadow grows sullen and brown;
When the oats seem each day
To run only one way,
And that is the way to the town—
Then you yearn for the life
That means bustle and strife
And sylvan delights become tame,
And a voice far away
Seems to whisper and say
That it's time to get into the game.

When the breeze now and then
Hints of autumn again
And the blood feels a quickening thrill;
When a leaf here and there
Flutters forth on the air
From the sycamore up on the hill;
When the shrill katydid
In the foliage hid
Has begun its incessant acclaim,
There's a warning complete
And uncommonly sweet
That it's time to get into the game.

SIMPLE SPELLING.

President Roosevelt's Action Hardly a "Square Deal."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The general opinion seems to be that Mr. Roosevelt has somewhat lost his balance in advocating an extremely radical reform in our present mode of spelling. It would seem that in the avowed desire to make our language more easy for foreigners to master he has forgotten that the English language is primarily for those who have a birthright in it. The proposed change is scarcely a "square deal" to Americans. The work of our patient schoolmasters will have gone for nought, and the vested rights of each in his acquired education will be wrested from him in spite of Constitutional prohibitions. The house will be divided against itself when the growing son writes home for money in writing which looks like one of our magazine dialect stories, and the father sends back a check in the language which banks will still honor, though the chief guardian of our customs forsake it.

To be sure, the father, in the desire to keep pace with the son's acquirements, may waggishly clip off an "e" here and there, but it is hardly probable that he will neglect his business duties or the profitable pursuits of his leisure in order to take spelling lessons.

Logically, the idea of the change is at fault. The object of writing is to convey to the eye what the speech conveys to the ear. We do not desire to mauth each word as we read it—which would be the result of presenting to our sight symbols which are strange to it. Surely the thought of a crowded subway train full of mumbling men and women is a horror to be recoiled from.

Practically, the idea is farcical. We should see each man his own phonetic reformer. Many words would be written in a different way by each of four or five persons, depending upon the picture which each drew of the speech of his part of the country—some being good artists and others not. In other words, pronunciation is far too unstable a basis for the foundation upon it of written language, of which the foremost requirements must be uniformity and other qualities which go to make up permanency.

The other side of the case, however, must be heard from. Consider the priceless boon to the uneducated and the careless, who find difficulty in spelling our language as it is at present. What joy will come to them when the possibility of misspelling exists no more and each man for the creations of his pen may plead the abrogation of all uniformity and the dictates of his own taste!

Gleaming brightly through the clouds of popular disapproval, however, is seen the President's courage in disregarding the obvious truth—that any popularity, however great, will fall before just ridicule.

HAROLD C. MCCOLLOM.

NEW YORK, August 25.

Old Fogy Question.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* What is? This is the first question which a bewildered mind snatches at after reading the startling news concerning the Chief Magistrate and the spelling book. Other questions are:

If skulz spells schools, how do you spell skulls? Why change country into kuntri? What is the difference in sound between the final *y* and the substituted *i*?

Is there no difference in sound between tu, tew, too and to? Do *shun* and *tion* really make the same sound? Is the language to be degraded to the level of the ignorant citizen whose vote is wanted and who may not vote until he can read and spell? What becomes of the distinction between the speech of the educated man and the slovenly minded, when our literature makes no distinction between English and the illegitimate dialect proposed by some cranks? What becomes of the writer of dialect stories when his field is thus stolen by college professors and such?

Have you never seen a magnificent tree designed by nature to be, and in the natural course of years developing into, an object of beauty and value, changed by a too busy pruning knife into an object fit only for the climbing pole in a bear's den? Is this to be the fate of our rich and splendid language, with all of its significant graftings from those of every nation in the world?

French to-day is the language of the polite as well as the higher business world. Has France altered her speech by one letter to accommodate the laziness of the short cut seekers of wealth?

Have we not made concessions enough to every race on earth for the purpose of getting their dollars? Why preserve anything: why keep any vowels, any word endings; any short words? In fact, why anything?

A BELIEVER IN THE SUN.

COS COB, Conn., August 25.

A Heated Lover of the Historic Language.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the name of common decency—for God's sake—use your influence to prevent, if possible, the damnable effort of the President of the United States to commit his intended sacrilege against the English language.

The spectacle of a bunch of conceited poseurs trying to desecrate the language is scarcely more than laughable, because they cannot impose their vulgar imbecilities upon any one; but the spectacle of the President of the United States using his power to actually impose those same imbecilities upon the readers of Government documents is—I repeat—nothing short of damnable. Why need Mr. Roosevelt exert his encyclopædic wisdom on anything *ultra vires* except the determining of birth rates of the country?

Incidentally, by what right—legal right—can the President of the United States alter the accepted spelling in official documents?

MANHATTAN, August 25. W. B. C.

Beginning at Home.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Probably the President knows how his surname should be pronounced. Many of his countrymen do not. Let him give practical proof of his devotion to spelling reform by recasting his name, so that all may call him as he does himself. P. R.

NEW YORK, August 25.

Why Not the New Spelling for Surnames?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It seems to sum of us who ar interested in corect speling that befor endevoring to fil the place of the late Artemas Ward as an advocate of the fonetic sistem our President, Theodore Roosevelt, shud at least spel his own name as he pronounces it and shud omit the final "e" from his first name and the extra "o" from his last name. We fear that a failur in this particular may cors trubel in the reformers' midst and weken the hole muvement.

We appeal to yu as an infalibel authority on corectness and consistency, and wud like to hav your vus on the subject. RANDOLF NITE.

(Heretofore Randolph Knight.)

NEW YORK, August 25.

Artists in Black.

From the Yorkshire Mercury.

"Blue flowers" may or may not be uncommon, but the cultivation of a black tulip, although not common, is an accomplished fact. The credit for the production of this floral phenomenon rests with a Yorkshire clergyman, one of the most distinguished of amateur horticulturists, the Rev. H. W. Horner, M. A., of Burton-in-Lonsdale. Mr. Horner labored for years to realize in fact the dream of Dumas's fiction, and has succeeded. He has also succeeded in cultivating perfectly black auriculas. It may be added that Mrs. Horner is famous in the dog world as a breeder of perfectly black pugs. One of the chief attractions of that peculiar breed of pugs is that they do not become so readily pig-like as the brown ones and they are exceptionally intelligent.

A Cautious Scotswoman.

From the Pall Mall Gazette.

Thirty-one years ago a woman named Robertson purchased a ticket for Canada in Glasgow. For some feminine reason or other she changed her mind, but carefully preserved the ticket. A few days ago it was presented at one of the offices of the Allan Line and duly honored, the company issuing an equivalent new ticket and retaining the old one as a curiosity.

In *McClure's Magazine* for September a finely illustrated article by Eugene Wood describes Niagara as it is now. Short stories are supplied by Rudyard Kipling, Samuel Hopkins Adams, Percival Gibbon, James Hopper, Viola Roseboro and J. T. McIntyre. There is an account of King Alfonso's wedding, and the serials on Montana corruption by Mr. Connolly and on life insurance by Mr. Hendricks are continued.